

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

November 19, 2019
City Hall
326 Grant Street

Public Services Committee Members Present; Juan Topete, Ed Barlow, and Mike Daugherty

Members Absent; James Harrison

Staff Present; Mark Peterson, Tom Short, and Lorie Neubert

Non-Members Present; Ceri Otero, Abi Almandinger, Chanti Beckham, and Darren Collier

At 5:30 P.M. Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider and discuss Carthage Community Gardens at Griggs Park.

Mr. Peterson reports looking at different locations in the City parks for community gardens. Ms. Beckham points out where they want to put the gardens in the SE corner of Griggs Park. The designated space will be approximately 90 feet by 30 feet. It will consist of numbered 1-14 raised beds and 15-17 numbered higher raised beds for those with difficulties maintaining the lower beds. A shed will be placed on the West side of the Carthage Community Garden designated location for storage. Berry brambles on the South side of the park. These beds will be rented by citizens on a yearly basis. Hopefully, they will donate a percentage of the produce raised to food banks etc.... The plots can be revoked if not maintained properly by the renters. Mr. Daugherty inquired what the City's responsibility will be after the first year. Ms. Beckham states that the Parks and Recreation Department will take over the maintenance and operation in the Spring of 2021. The Carthage Community Garden committee will be passing out flyers to people who live around Griggs Park. They will be printed in English and Spanish. They hope to get started on construction in February or March. An agreement will be established within the Adopt a Park resolution #1663.

2. Consider and discuss surplus bids for dump truck and portable propane tank.

Mr. Peterson reports the bid for the propane tank was \$526.00 and was submitted by Gary Reed. The dump truck bid was for \$1233.00 and was submitted by Curtis Cottingham. **Mr. Daugherty made a motion to accept the bid for the propane tank for \$526.00 from Gary Reed and the bid for the dump truck by Curtis Cottingham for \$1233.00. Motion carried.**

3. Consider and discuss Park Department realignment.

Mr. Peterson reports on some changes that he would like to see made to Parks and Recreation Department staffing for more of a streamlined operation. Utilizing all groups within the Department and cross training all maintenance workers to be able to work in park maintenance, golf maintenance, Memorial Hall, and Civil War Museum. A full time employee in Parks has transferred to the Public Works Department and the full time custodian at Memorial Hall will be moved to occupy the position in the Parks. Eliminating 1 full-time position that will be left vacant.

Seasonal workers will be used to make up for that position.

Administration will become more focused in the marketing of the Parks and Recreation Department facilities and amenities. Administration will be working to establish the eventual addition of Parks specific software as an add-on to the existing City website. Mr. Peterson believes that there are many technological resources available to present Carthage Parks & Recreation facilities and amenities more clearly and user friendly. Technology resources and staff training will be need to evolve to establish a marketing program that benefits the department, citizens and park facility users.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion to accept the Parks Department realignment. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director- Mark Peterson

Mr. Peterson reports bad weather in October had a major impact on golf rounds in October.

Fair Acres play equipment has been installed.

Mr. Peterson reports of shooting guns having taken place at Fair Acres. Shell casings and bullet holes have been found in and around the Girls Softball concession stand. There is a need to put up security cameras in the area and that can be addressed once we have a new IT person on staff.

Adult softball is ending their season out at Fair Acres with a tournament this weekend.

Central Park pool needs repairs and will be looking into what is needed for that to be done.

Freer Park is cleaned up nicely since the contractors have left.

Carter Park entrance is repaired.

Old restrooms in Carter Park will be removed soon.

The base for the new shelter at Municipal Park has been started.

All grants have been completed and submitted.

Mr. Peterson reports of being in contact with a baseball league that is considering coming to play in the Rock Stadium in the summer of 2021.

Mr. Daugherty moved for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.